REPORT

FROM THE

COMMITTEE

To whom it was referred

To inquire into the CAUSES

OF THE

Exceſſive Price of COALS, &c.

Reported by Mr. PRIME SERJEANT.

Jovis, 24 Die Decembris, 1761.

DUBLIN:

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BY *Vertue of an Order of the* Houſe of Commons, *I do appoint* Abraham Bradley *to print this* Report, *and that no other Perſon do preſume to print the ſame.*

JOHN PONSONBY, Speaker.

REPORT

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To Enquire into the CAUSES

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Exceſſive Price of COALS, &c.

Mr. *Speaker*,

THE Committee to whom it was referred, to enquire into the Cauſes of the exceſſive Price of Coals, and alſo into the Frauds made uſe of, in buying and ſelling of Coals; to conſider what further Regulations may be made to prevent the ſame for the future, and for better ſupplying the Kingdom with Coals; have come to the following Reſolutions.

Reſolved,

Reſolved,

1. That it appears to this Committee, that the principal Cauſe of the exceſſive Price of Coals in this City is, that ſeveral Perſons called Lumpers or Purſers, make a Practice of buying up in the Cargoes from the Maſters of Ships on their Arrival, and before they come up to the Quays, and Retail the ſame, at exorbitant Prices.

Reſolved,

2. That it appears to this Committee, that the ſaid Perſons are moſtly Coal Factors who are thereby, and by a Colluſion between them and the Maſters of the Coal Ships, encouraged and enabled to impoſe on the Public, by raiſing the Price of Coals.

Reſolved,

3. That it appears to this Committee, that the ſeveral Perſons herein after named, to Wit, *John Archer*, *John Johnſton*, *Lawrence Johnſton*, *Charles Tenant*, *Charles Havy*, *John Turkentine*, *Patrick Carol*, and *George Mc.Mullen*, have been principally concerned in the ſaid fraudulent Practices, and have thereby gained immoderate Profits, to the great Diſtreſs of the Inhabitants of this City.

Reſolved,

4. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that ſome further Regulations are neceſſary to prevent the ſeveral Frauds practiſed in the Coal Trade in this City.

Reſolved,

5. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that it would be a great Means of preventing the raiſing the Price of Coals in this City, if the Lord Mayor was impowered to direct any Ship, Lighter, or Gabbard, laden with Coals, or the ſaid Coals to be brought up from any part of the River or Harbour of this City to the Quay or Public landing Place, and to cauſe the

the ſaid Coals to be there publickly ſold at a reaſonable Price, to be fixed by the ſaid Lord Mayor, or Recorder, and any four Aldermen, not under Sixteen Shillings the Tun, and that no one Perſon ſhall buy more than the Quantity of Fifteen Tun of ſaid Cargo, unleſs by Permiſſion of the ſaid Lord Mayor or Recorder, and four Aldermen, in Caſe a ſufficient Number of Buyers ſhould not appear.

Reſolved,

6. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the buying of Coals on Board any Ship, Gabbard or Boat, not lying at the Time of ſuch Sale at ſome Quay in the City of *Dublin*, ſhould be prohibited under a ſevere Penalty, and all Coals, unleſs bought there, or in ſome Licenced Yard, to be forfeited.

Reſolved,

7. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that it ſhall and may be lawful for the Lord Mayor, with any four Aldermen, to enter into any Yard, Cellar, Houſe or Place, where Coals are lay'd up for Sale, and to order the ſame to be ſold out at ſuch Prices as they ſhall think fit, but not under Eighteen Shillings the Tun.

Reſolved,

8. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that if any Perſon think himſelf aggriev'd, by the Determination of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, touching the Price of Coals, that ſuch Perſon may within Six Days after Appeal to the chief Governor or chief Governors and Privy Council, who ſhall have Power to aſſum, vary, or reverſe the ſaid Sentence.

Reſolved,

9. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that where any Perſon has lay'd up a Quantity of Coals, exceeding One Hundred Tuns, it ſhall and may be lawful for the Lord Mayor

to examine ſuch Perſon, his Clerks or Agents, upon Oath, as to the Purpoſes for which the ſaid Coals were lay'd up, or are intended, and if the Lord Mayor ſhall have reaſon on ſuch Examination, to ſuſpect that the ſaid Coals were bought or lay'd up for the Purpoſe of enhancing the Price of Coals, that he may order the ſame to be ſold at ſuch Price as his Lordſhip ſhall think reaſonable, Provided the ſame ſhall not be ſold under Eighteen Shillings the Tun.

Reſolved,

10. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that no Coals ſhall at any time hereafter be ſold in this City at a higher Rate than Twenty Shillings the Tun, at any Time, or under any Pretence whatever, under a ſevere Penalty, on any Perſon who ſhall preſume to ſell at a higher Rate.

Reſolved,

11. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that no Perſon ſhall hereafter be allowed to purchaſe Coals for Sale, or to keep any Yard for that Purpoſe, or to act as a Factor, Purſer or Agent, in any reſpect whatever for buying or ſelling Coals in this City without having a Licence for that Purpoſe from the Lord Mayor or Recorder of this City, which Licence in the Caſe of Perſons purchaſing Coals for Sale, ſhall mention particularly the Street and Pariſh where the Yards or Cellars lye where the ſaid Perſons intend to ſell Coals, and no Licence ſhall be granted unleſs the Perſon deſiring ſuch Licence, ſhall firſt enter into Bond with ſufficient Securities of the Penalty of Five Hundred Pounds conditioned for ſuch Perſons, not being in any ſort concerned in Engroſſing, Foreſtalling, or Regrating, or in raiſing the Price of Coals, for which Licence, and alſo for filling up the ſaid Bond, the ſaid Factor or Seller, ſhall pay one Shilling, and no more.

Reſolved,

12. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the ſaid Factors ſhould never exceed the Number of Forty, and ſhould never

never buy any Coals to ſell again, and not to exceed in any one year the quantity of Twenty Tun.

Reſolved,

13. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the ſaid Factors ſhould take an Oath to be Adminiſtered by the Lord Mayor, that they will not during the Time of their being Factors, buy any Coals to ſell again, and that they will exerciſe the ſaid Office faithfully, diligently, and impartially, between the Perſons who buy, and thoſe who ſell Coals.

Reſolved,

14. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the buying or ſelling Coals at any Place, except a licenſed Coal-yard, or on ſome publick Quay, or on board Ships, Lighters, Gabbards or Boats, lying at or adjoining to ſome publick Quay at the Time of ſuch Sale, ſhould be probibited, under a ſevere Penalty againſt ſuch Buyers and Sellers.

Reſolved,

15. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that no Perſon who ſhall keep a Coal-yard, or be concerned as a Factor, ſhould keep any Boat or Gabbard for the purpoſe of carrying Coals, and that no Perſon ſhall keep ſuch Boat or Gabbard without having a Licence for that Purpoſe from the Lord Mayor or Recorder of this City, for which Licence Three Shillings and no more ſhall be paid.

Reſolved,

16. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Maſter of every Veſſel ſhould be obliged immediately on his Arrival at any of the Quays to hang at the Maſt of his Veſſel, or of the Lighter, Gabbard, or Boat, in which Coals ſhall be brought to the ſaid Quays, a Board with the true Name of the Place from whence the ſaid Coals were brought, written thereupon in large legible Characters, and that every Perſon

Perſon who ſhall keep a Coal-yard ſhall hang at the Door of ſaid Yard ſuch a Board, with the true Denomination of ſuch Coals as ſhall be then in the ſaid Yard, written in like manner, and no Sum of Money ſhall be charged or taken by any Perſon whatſoever for hanging out ſuch Board, and that no Perſon ſhall at the ſame time keep in his Poſſeſſion for Sale Coals of different Kinds.

Reſolved,

17. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that any Maſter, Factor, Porter, or any Perſon keeping a Coal-yard, or any Perſon whatever, who ſhall knowingly and wilfully ſell Coals by a falſe Denomination, or impoſe or be any ways aiding or inſtrumental in impoſing upon any Buyer of Coals, touching the Denominations or Kinds of the ſaid Coals, ſhould be ſubject to a ſevere Penalty.

Reſolved,

18. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that it would be a Means of preventing the exceſſive Price of Coals in this City, if Yards were taken at the Expence of the Public, for the Purpoſe of laying in a ſufficient Quantity of Coals for ſupplying the Journeymen, Tradeſmen and Manufacturers, and Poor of this City with Coals at moderate Prices.

Reſolved,

19. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the ſaid Coals ſhould be bought in at the Public Expence, when Coals are under Sixteen Shillings the Tun, and ſold out at a Profit of One Shilling the Tun when Coals are ſold at a higher Price than Eighteen Shillings the Tun.

Reſolved,

20. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the ſaid Coals ſhould be ſold out to ſuch Journeymen, Tradeſmen and Manufacturers, and to ſuch Poor of this City, as ſhall produce Certificates

Certificates from the Miniſters and Church-Wardens of their reſpective Pariſhes, or from the Lord Mayor, Recorder, or any two Aldermen of this City, ſetting forth the Names, Trade or Occupation of ſuch Perſon, and the Street where he or ſhe reſides, and the Quantity of half a Barrel, and no more, ſhall be ſold to any one Perſon in one Day.

Reſolved,

21. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Forfeits ariſing from the Sale of the ſaid Coals, ſhould be applied towards paying the yearly Rent of the ſaid Coal-yards and the Expences of carrying the ſaid Scheme into Execution.

Reſolved,

22. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that for providing a Fund for buying the ſaid Coals, and for defraying the Expences attending the Execution of the ſaid Scheme, a Sum of Money will be neceſſary.

Reſolved,

23. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Sum neceſſary for the aforeſaid Purpoſes, will be a Sum not exceeding the Sum of Ten Thouſand Pounds.

Reſolved,

24. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that when Coals ſhall be bought in, for ſupplying the ſaid Public Coal-yard, that the Perſon buying the ſaid Coals ſhall give a Draft on the Treaſury for the Amount of the ſaid Coals, and that the Money ariſing by Sale of ſaid Coals out of ſaid Yard, ſhall once in every Month be paid into the Treaſury.

Reſolved,

25. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the moſt effectual Means of ſupplying the Kingdom with our own

Coals, would be to appoint Commiſſioners for ſuperintending and directing the Coal Trade of this Kingdom, and to appropriate certain Funds for encouraging the ſame.

Reſolved,

26. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the ſaid Commiſſioners ſhould not exceed the Number of Twenty, and ſhould be appointed by the Chief Governor or Governors for the Time being, and ſhould act without Fee or Reward.

Reſolved,

27. That it is the Opinion of this Committee, that the Lord Mayor, Recorder, and Board of Aldermen, ſhould have Power from Time to Time, to make ſuch Rules and By-laws for fixing the Wages, and regulating the Conduct of Meaſurers, Porters, and Carmen, employed in the Carriage, or Meaſurement of Coals, as the ſaid Lord Mayor, Recorder and Board of Aldermen, or the Majority of them ſhall think proper.

The E N D.